

Pakistan to start

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Qaeda during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

He also insisted that allegations of Pakistani complicity and incompetence were "absurd".
"Allegations of complicity or incompetence are absurd," Gilani said in a televised address to parliament, adding that it was disingenuous for anyone to accuse Pakistan, including its spy agency, of "being in cahoots" with the al-Qaeda network, adds Reuters.
US President Barack Obama has urged Pakistan to investigate the suspected network that sustained bin Laden. Obama said it had to find out if any officials knew of his whereabouts.
In a statement to MPs about the Abbottabad raid by the US special forces, Gilani said Lt-Gen Javed Iqbal would lead the investigation into the failures to detect the al-Qaeda leader.

"We are determined to get to the bottom of how, when and why about OBL's presence in Abbottabad," Gilani said.
He mounted a strong defence of Pakistan's record in fighting terrorism, highlighting the "price paid" in civilian and military losses, and the numbers of al-Qaeda militants killed or arrested.
There have been suspicions that someone in Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) spy agency, which has a long history of contacts with militant groups, may have known where bin Laden was hiding. But Gilani told MPs that

the ISI, and the military, had the full support and confidence of the government.

He also said the US had then widely dispersed al-Qaeda's fighters by following a "flawed" military strategy to capture bin Laden in the mountains of Tora Bora in 2001.
"We did not invite al-Qaeda to Pakistan," he insisted, saying that the failure to find bin Laden for 10 years was the result of "an intelligence failure...of all the intelligence agencies of the world" and that "blame games serve no purpose".
He added: "The al-Qaeda chief, along with other al-Qaeda operators, had managed to elude global intelligence agencies for a long time. He was constantly being tracked, not only by the ISI but also by other intelligence agencies."

"It was the ISI that passed leads to the CIA that enabled the US intelligence to use superior technological assets and focus on the area in which Osama bin Laden was eventually found."
Despite his criticism of the US, he also said that Washington remained a key ally of Islamabad.

"We have a strategic partnership that we believe is in our mutual interest."
"NOAPOLOGY"
Later, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Washington took Pakistani complaints seriously but added: "We also do not apologise for the action that this president took."

He said Obama was convinced that he had the "right and imperative" to mount the raid.

Carney also said the US was still seeking access to three of bin Laden's widows, currently in Pakistani custody.

In an interview broadcast on Sunday, President Obama told CBS's 60 Minutes show that the al-Qaeda leader must have had "some sort of support network" in Pakistan, but he did not know whether it included government officials.

"We don't know whether there might have been some people inside of [Pakistan's] government, people outside of government, and that's something that we have to investigate and, more importantly, the Pakistani government has to investigate," the US president said in the interview, which was conducted on Wednesday.

The BBC's Natalia Antelava, in Washington, says Obama's message was even-handed and diplomatic, and he was careful not to accuse Pakistan of harbouring bin Laden.

Pakistan plays a crucial role in America's war efforts in Afghanistan, and too much public pressure on Pakistan could jeopardise the relationship, she adds.
American officials have been poring over computer files seized by US special forces from the hideout.

US officials said the Abbottabad compound was a command and control centre from where Bin Laden had actively led al-Qaeda.

995 bullets

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Officer-in-charge (OC) of Jhenaigati Police Station Abdur Rob Pradhan said a team of Detective Branch police from Sherpur sadar and Jhenaigati jointly raided the houses of Ali Chura and Monjurul Islam around 6:00am.

The police recovered the bullets of Chinese rifle from under earth adjacent to Ali Chura's house.

DB Sub-inspector Parvez who is investigating the incident said they are yet to learn where the bullets came from and where these were to go. Bakakura is some 10 kilometres from Assam border in India.

The arrestees will be produced before the court today after interrogation, police said.

Earlier on December 18 last year, Jhenaigati police recovered 13,680 bullets from an abandoned room of the same village.

Seven cases were filed with Jhenaigati Police Station against Ali for his involvement in dacoity, theft, extortion, burglary and clashes, said the OC.

SC verdict

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constitution for parliamentary elections under a caretaker government.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque on April 6 kept the matter waiting for verdict on any day of this month.

Earlier, this court heard opinions and arguments from eight amici curiae (friends of court) and the counsels for both sides of the appeal for 10 days.

Of the amici curiae, Dr Kamal Hossain, TH Khan, Mahmudul Islam, M Amir-Ul Islam and Rokonuddin Mahmud gave opinions in favour of the caretaker government system.

However, two jurists -- Rafique-ul Huq and Dr M Zahir -- suggested alternatives to the system.

Amicus curiae Ajmalul Hossain and the appellant's counsels MI Farooqui and Mohsen Rashid placed arguments against the caretaker government system.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam argued for the system.
On January 25, 2000, M Salimullah, the then general secretary of Association for Democratic and Constitutional Advancement of Bangladesh (ADCAB), had filed the writ petition as public interest litigation challenging the amendment.

Following the writ petition, the HC on August 4, 2004 had declared 13th amendment to the constitution legal, and observed that the change did not distort the basic structure of the charter.

Abdul Mannan Khan, acting general secretary of ADCAB, filed the appeal with the SC against the HC verdict after Salimullah's death.

Bangladesh

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Climate Fund'.
Four committees were formed in the meeting -- Scope and guiding principles, Governance and Institutional arrangements, Operational modalities, Monitoring and Evaluation committee.

Bangladesh will work as a co-chair of Monitoring and Evaluation committee, said a press release of the Ministry of Environment and Forests yesterday.

The meeting discussed in detail about the formation of Green Climate Fund, rules of fund operation and institutional management, monitoring and operation and technical assistance of the fund.

Representatives of NGOs and civil society from the developed, developing and the least developed countries attended at the meeting.

Khaleda visits

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there until May 27, said party vice-president Shamsher Mubin Chowdhury.

He said the opposition leader would hold discussions with the officials of these countries and will also explain the party's stand on the current political situation of the country.

Khaleda will return home on May 29.



The bullets recovered from Bakakura village in Jhenaigati upazila of Sherpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Human resources

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and establish good governance," she said.

The PM mentioned that after the first LDCs' Action Plan, both the LDCs and development partners made a specific commitment to enhance the productive capacity of the LDCs.

In this regard, she said that to enhance productive capacities and improve human resources, the LDCs require investment, manpower training, transfer of knowledge and also resources.

"Primarily, inadequate resources in the form of development assistance and investment, and insufficient access to trade and integration in the market of developed countries, have hampered development of infrastructure, manpower development and hence the productive capacity of the LDCs."

Hasina also said that restraining the transfer of technology and of the accompanying knowledge and skills also added to retarding development of the LDCs.

Citing example of Bangladesh, she said that in order to enhance productive capacity and take advantage of the globalisation process, the government has strived to frame appropriate monetary, fiscal, trade and investment policies and initiatives in infrastructure, power, energy,

communications and transport sectors.

"We've also progressed reasonably well in human resource development, social safety nets, micro-credit in alleviating poverty, domestic resource mobilisation, transforming our agriculture and rural economy by integrating the domestic market, and making technological advance."

The present government lately introduced public private partnership (PPP) for development activities, and is seeking FDI and remittance from expatriate Bangladeshis to meet the domestic gap, she added.

To uplift the LDCs from their precarious situation, she urged the Istanbul Programme of Action to include a structure of genuine commitment for a reinforced partnership between the LDCs and the development partners to ensure production of more goods and services in the LDCs.

Hasina said she believed that improvement of the economies of LDCs means improvement of their purchasing power, and becoming stronger and more viable markets for the developed countries.

Joseph Deiss (Switzerland), President of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly, UN Conference on

Trade and Development Secretary General Supachai Panitchpakdi, Under-secretary General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Noeleen Heyzer, Director General of UNIDO Kandeh K Yumkella, Director General of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Francis Gurry, Executive Director of ILO Juan Somavia, and Deputy Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Houlin Zhao also spoke at the session.

Vatican envoy to visit quake-hit Japan

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Benedict XVI will send a close advisor this week to Japan to show the Vatican's support for victims of the devastating March 11 quake and tsunami, a report said yesterday.

Cardinal Robert Sarah, the president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" which oversees the Vatican's worldwide charity operations will visit Tokyo and northern Sendai city, the worst hit area, on May 13-16, Vatican officials told religious news agency I.MEDIA.

Grenade attackers

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meetings held in Al Markajul office, and supplying of an ambulance for the fleeing attackers, the CID investigator declined to make any comment.

But other CID sources said Rashid claimed that detained Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) founder Abdus Salam, Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, acting chiefs Moulana Sheikh Farid and Abdul Hannan Sabbir, and Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leader Moulana Tajuddin, who is currently a fugitive, were among the militant leaders who held meetings several times in the NGO's office, leading up to the attack.

But as all participants in the meetings were senior militant leaders and as his senior officials allowed them to hold the meetings in the office, he could not protest; and Al Markajul Islami supplied an ambulance on request of the militant leaders,

without knowing that the vehicle would be used in the attack, CID officials quoted Rashid as saying.

Rashid, 60, of Gopalganj district was picked up from his office in Shyamoli, based on information provided by arrested Huji leader Moulana Sheikh Farid, who is now on remand.

The sources said in the statement Rashid admitted that Al Markajul Islami Bangladesh was involved in the attack, but denied his own involvement.

Rashid was released last night after interrogation, said his son Hafez Abdullah.

Moulana Sayeed Nur, acting chairman of the NGO, however said on Sunday night, "The allegation is baseless, we never thought of such a heinous act."

Chairman of the NGO, Mufti Shahidul Islam, who had been arrested and sentenced to jail on tax evasion charges, got out on bail and is

currently on the run.

Funded by Middle Eastern countries, Al Markajul Islami is a service oriented NGO that mainly provides services for burial, and for transporting dead bodies and patients.

Former BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, two former directors general of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) -- Maj Gen (ret'd) Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Abdur Rahim -- are also arrested in the case.

CID earlier submitted a charge sheet accusing 22 people in the case, but the court directed the department to investigate further to find out the sources of the grenades, and the supplier.

Twenty-four people, including AL leader Ivy Rahman, were killed and more than 300 others were injured in the grenade attack on the AL rally.

South Korea president calls on north to renounce nukes

AFP, Berlin

South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak yesterday called on North Korea to renounce nuclear weapons, saying Pyongyang would be invited to next year's nuclear security summit if it agreed to do so.

"This is an official proposal to North Korea," Lee told a joint press conference here with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"North Korea must say it will renounce nuclear weapons. When it has promised to do so, then we shall be able to issue an invitation" to next year's nuclear security summit taking place in South Korea, Lee said.

South Korea had earlier said the North should first apologise for recent military provocations in order to be invited to the summit.

Yet another

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income.
Kader used to press her for money and often subjected her to physical torture. He spent most of the money for buying drugs.

He returned to the village last month and started to spread rumours involving Lovely. When she went there to reconcile with her husband, the local arbitrators on Friday termed her a woman of loose character.

Sadek Hossain Babu, in collaboration with arbitrators Ujjal, Shafiqul and her husband Kader, shaved her head with scissors and a razor, complained Lovely.

They also confined her at her father's house for two days following the incident.

Lovely and her parents escaped on Sunday night and took refuge at their relative's house in Dupchanchia.

The victim filed a case against five people including her husband Kader and local Awami League activist Sadek Hossain Babu, said Abdul Mottaleb, officer-in-charge of Adamdighi Police Station.

Bilqous Banu, manager of Brac's human rights and legal aid service of Adamdighi took the victim into their custody and helped her to file the case.

Claiming himself as an AL worker, Sadek admitted he was involved in the incident as Lovely's in-laws sought "justice".

Limon bail

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ground floor.

Limon has been shifted to an orthopaedics department ward on the third floor of the hospital and was now undergoing treatment under Dr Babul Kumar Saha and Dr Shaheen.

Talking to The Daily Star, SBMCH Dr Abdur Rashid said Limon needs long-term specialised medical care and also an artificial leg, which is not available at the hospital.

"We have recommended taking Limon to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) in Dhaka for better treatment," he said.

Earlier on the day, which was fixed for hearing a petition on Limon's bail in the arms case, his counsel Nasimul Hasan asked Jhalakathi District Judge Faruk Ahmed to consider the bail prayer as "not pressed" since the HC on Thursday had granted six months' bail in the same case.

The lawyer placed before Jhalakathi Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court an attested copy of the HC bail order, which two staff of rights body Ain o Salish Kendra had taken to the district in the morning.

They also placed a petition seeking compliance with the HC bail order.
The court of Reza Tarek Ahmed ordered the Jhalakathi district jail authority at about 2:00pm to release Limon, on a bail bond of Tk 20,000.

"It was an unprecedented move by the Jhalakathi Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court as the judge granted bail to the poor boy complying with an attested copy of the HC bail order, not the certified copy," Nasimul told The Daily Star.

The court later sent the bail order by one of its staff to Jhalakathi district jail authorities, which at about 3:00pm issued an order for Limon's release.

The Jhalakathi jail authorities later sent the release order to Barisal district jail that kept the college student in custody. The Barisal jail authorities issued the final release order for Limon around 4:20pm.

The Barisal district jail authority handed over the order to Limon at 5:00pm. Police were withdrawn later.

On Limon's release, his relatives, who gathered there, broke down in tears.

They demanded withdrawal of the false cases against Limon lodged by the Rab branding him a criminal.

Henoara Begum, Limon's mother, demanded a fair and speedy investigation into the case she filed against six Rab

personnel for maiming her son and immediate arrest of the accused.

"Those who maimed my son must be punished," said the weeping mother in her immediate reaction.

The case she filed on April 11 was recorded by police dilly-dallying for 15 days even after a court order.

A Rab team shot Limon in the left leg while he was on his way to bring back a herd of cattle home in Chhaturia village on March 23. The leg had to be amputated.

The same day, Rab-8 Deputy Assistant Director Lutfor Rahman filed two cases against Limon and several others with Rajapur Police Station on charges of possessing arms and ammunitions, obstructing law enforcers from discharging their duties and attempting to murder.

On May 2, Magistrate Nusrat Jahan of Jhalakathi granted Limon bail in the case filed for obstructing law enforcers from discharging their duties and using arms against them.

Two days later, police took Limon to Jhalakathi from Nitor in Dhaka and produced him before a Jhalakathi court.

Ordering to send Limon to jail, the court asked the prison authorities to arrange his treatment at the SBMCH prison cell.

Elderly dies

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sources said they found no marks of injury on the victim's body. They are conducting pathological tests to know the reason of the death.

Jahangir Alam, son of the victim, told newsmen that they live in a rented house with other five families. Only a single tap is there for all tenants and they can scarcely collect enough water as supply water is available for a limited time.

He said the daughter of caretaker Shahabuddin obstructed his sister when she went to collect water around 9:00pm that day. A fierce argument followed between the two families.

At one stage, it turned into a clash and Shahabuddin's family members beat up his father to death, added Jahangir.

Police arrested Shahabuddin's wife Morjina Begum and daughter Mousumi.

Officer-in-Charge Helal Uddin of the police station said they were investigating the incident.

Child-clubbing

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physically abusing nine-year-old Belal Hossain of Baniakhmar area in the city.

Md Ahmad Ali, executive director of Bangladesh Human Rights Implementation Committee (BHRIC), filed the writ petition.

The bench, comprised of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Shawkat Hossain, also directed the two cops not to resort to any further mental and physical abuse of children and other people in future.

The judges further directed the home secretary, inspector general of police, deputy inspector general of Khulna police, commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police and deputy commissioner of Khulna district to enforce this rule on the two police officials.

Earlier, the BHRIC sued the two for torturing Belal.

According to the case statement, SI Moniuzzaman picked up Belal on April 12 from near a coal tar factory under Sonadanga Police Station suspecting him of being involved in theft of a small iron rod.

Moniuzzaman beat the little boy black and blue and gave electric shocks after handcuffing him. This inhumane incident took place in front of OC Kamruzzaman at his office room.

On the following day, police handed over the victim to his mother Shahnur Begum as there was no specific allegation against him.

Secretary General of BHRIC Sigma Huda moved the writ petition in the HC, said Khulna coordinator of BHRIC Mominul Islam.

BNP announces

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secretary Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annee.

The rally venue virtually turned into a battlefield for some time as Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jatiyatabadi Swachchasebok Dal (JSD) activists clashed.

Police charged batons and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

As announced at the rally, BNP will stage countrywide demonstrations on May 12 protesting "deterioration" of law and order.

The party will hold rallies and bring out processions across the country on May 18 and May 24 protesting the recent fuel price hike, and demanding withdrawal of "false" cases against party leaders including Tarique Rahman, his brother Arafat Rahman, and release of arrested leaders.

In his speech, Fakhrul Islam said this government has no moral right to run the country since it has failed to implement its electoral pledges. "A tougher movement will be launched to force the government to quit and hold a midterm election."

Referring to college student Limon Hossain (who was shot into disability by Rab), the BNP leader said "crossfire" has become a serious problem although the ruling party had pledged to stop extra-judicial killings.

Fakhrul said the government has "institutionalised" corruption which has pervaded it from top to bottom. Allegations of corruption involving hundreds of crores of taka are being heard centring the Padma bridge and elevated expressway projects, he added.

Party leaders Mirza Abbas, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Aman Ullah Aman, among others, addressed the rally.

They said BNP will not accept any changes to the country's constitution without its consent.

As the rally ended, a clash broke out over JSD men not allowing JCD men to sit in the front row at the rally venue.

The clash followed altercations between JCD President Sultan Salauddin Tuku and JSD General Secretary Sarafat Ali Safu over seating arrangements for their men, witnesses said.

Supporters of the two sides engaged in scuffles and at one stage attacked each other with bamboo sticks, used for banners, placards and portraits of Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman. Chanting party slogans, they chased each other.

Police rushed to the spot and swung into action to disperse them.